

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 /017 W
----- 097090

R 020309Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3650

USDOC FOR OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SN

SUBJ: GROUP TRAVEL: STATE OF OHIO

REF: STATE 185311

1. RECENT EMBASSY EXPERIENCE WITH LARGE GROUPS SUCH AS STATE OF OHIO'S HAS NOT BEEN AN ALTOGETHER HAPPY ONE. BECAUSE OF PROMISED PRESENCE OF PROMINENT OFFICE HOLDER OR CORPORATE FIGURE, EMBASSY HAS AT TIMES ASSISTED VISITING GROUPS. ALL TOO OFTEN, THE GROUP'S PRINCIPALS AND MANY OF ITS PARTICIPANTS HAVE LEFT THE TOUR PRIOR TO ITS ARRIVAL IN SINGAPORE, WHICH INVARIABLY (PERHAPS BECAUSE OF ITS REPUTATION FOR GOOD SHOPPING) IS THE LAST STOP.

2. EMBASSY THEREFORE CONCERNED TO LEARN THAT SUBJECT MISSION DOES NOT HAVE IOGA STATUS. STATE OF OHIO REPRESENTATIVE BILL SMITH VISITED SINGAPORE IN MARCH, AND WAS INFORMED BY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE THAT USDOC SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE NECESSARY IF SIGNIFICANT EMBASSY RESOURCES WERE TO BE CALLED ON. THIS POSITION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONVEYED IN WRITING BY SMITH TO BOTH GOVERNOR RHODES AND JAMES DUERK OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

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3. NOW THAT USG SUPPORT FOR THIS GROUP HAS BEEN LEFT ENTIRELY

TO POST'S DISCRETION, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL BACK-
GROUND TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, ASSISTANCE IS APPROPRIATE.
SPECIFICALLY, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF STATE OF OHIO
DID, IN FACT, SEEK IOGA STATUS, AND WHAT IS USDOC ATTITUDE
TOWARD THIS MISSION; WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, IOGA STATUS SOUGHT BUT
NOT GRANTED BECAUSE USDOC DID NOT JUDGE IT TO HAVE SUFFICIENT
POTENTIAL FOR PROMOTING US EXPORTS? PLEASE ADVISE. GRANT

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NNN

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